

From: Brian Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 5:33pm
Subject: Comment on Proposed Settlement

I'm writing to inform you that like many Americans I am extremely disappointed with the proposed settlement between Microsoft and the DOJ.

Microsoft's strategy is simple and a blatant abuse of its monopoly power--they pick a product, like browsers, instant messaging, or streaming video, that they want to dominate, and then bundle it with Windows claiming it's a "feature". If lack of competition really produced better products, the Soviet Union would have led the world in technological prowess. The high-tech industry in this country and consumers everywhere can only be hurt by a world where Microsoft, not the market, dictates what products will be successful. If every TV set sold was made by one company and they decided to throw in a VCR with every one of them, sure consumers would benefit--but not nearly as much as they would if free competition led to a number of manufacturers battling it out to make the best VCR possible. Free enterprise is what this country was built on, and it deeply worries me to see my government throwing this principle out the window to placate Microsoft.

Don't let the emails I'm sure Microsoft has people writing on their behalf fool you--most people are against this settlement and want to see more stringent penalties imposed that prevent Microsoft from bundling products and crushing new industries before they can be born. I hope the United States will be persistent in bringing Microsoft to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian Smith

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